

COUNTY ATTORNEY

PROGRAM:

Special Projects

PROGRAM ELEMENT:

Debt Collection

PROGRAM MISSION:

To provide timely and efficient collection of delinquent monies owed to Montgomery County

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED:

- Provide high value for tax dollars
- Ensure respect for the law
- Ensure accountability

PROGRAM MEASURES

	FY01 ACTUAL	FY02 ACTUAL	FY03 ACTUAL	FY04 BUDGET	FY04 ACTUAL	FY05 APPROVED
Outcomes/Results:						
Delinquent funds collected (\$000) ^a	12,131	7,006	8,510	8,000	16,789	8,000
Service Quality:						
Average time to close a case (days)	377	461	626	431	847	69
Percentage of cases closed ^b	15.6	21.9	62.3	19	26.0	16
Efficiency:						
Cost per closed case (\$)	63.44	62.48	30.03	63.23	50.55	43.44
Delinquent funds recovered per closed case (\$)	1,781.87	941.41	696.06	1,230.77	1,855.55	1,000.00
Delinquent funds recovered per dollar expended (\$)	28.09	15.07	23.18	19.47	36.71	23.02
Workload/Outputs:						
Total cases opened	7,786	9,879	5,707	5,900	10,203	12,000
Total cases closed	6,808	7,442	12,226	6,500	9,048	8,000
Inputs:						
Expenditures (\$)	431,874	464,977	367,124	410,965	457,367	347,500
Workyears	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0

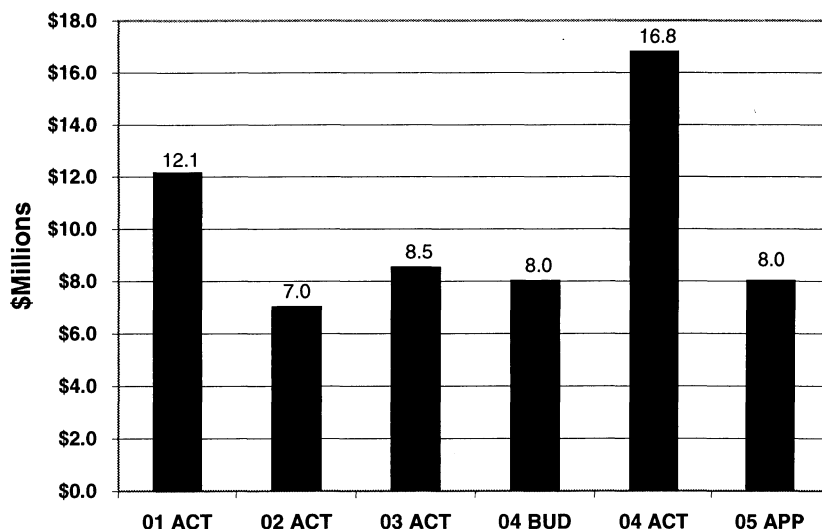
Notes:

^aThe FY01 collections total includes a significant number of non-delinquent tax bills that were erroneously referred to - and subsequently collected by - the Debt Collection Unit. (Penalty and interest were not assessed on those bills.)

^bThe percentage of cases closed refers to cases opened and closed in the same fiscal year.

EXPLANATION:

The Debt Collection Unit is responsible for the collection of all monies owed to Montgomery County that were referred to the County Attorney, including past due personal property taxes, code enforcement judgments, subrogation claims, bounced checks, unpaid fines, and other miscellaneous amounts billed by the County but not received. The funds collected have greatly exceeded the cost of the program: collections were about 15 times greater in FY02, 23 times greater in FY03, and nearly 36 times greater in FY04 (FY01 figures are not comparable, as explained in the Notes). The Unit's focus in FY05 will be on further reducing the cost of collection, assisted by the efficiencies associated with the implementation of a new debt collection system in FY04.

Delinquent Funds Collected (\$Millions)


PROGRAM PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF OUTCOMES: Office of the County Attorney, Montgomery County Treasury Division, Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

MAJOR RELATED PLANS AND GUIDELINES: Maryland Tax Code, Montgomery County Tax Policies.